



# Isabella Iscaro, New River Health District

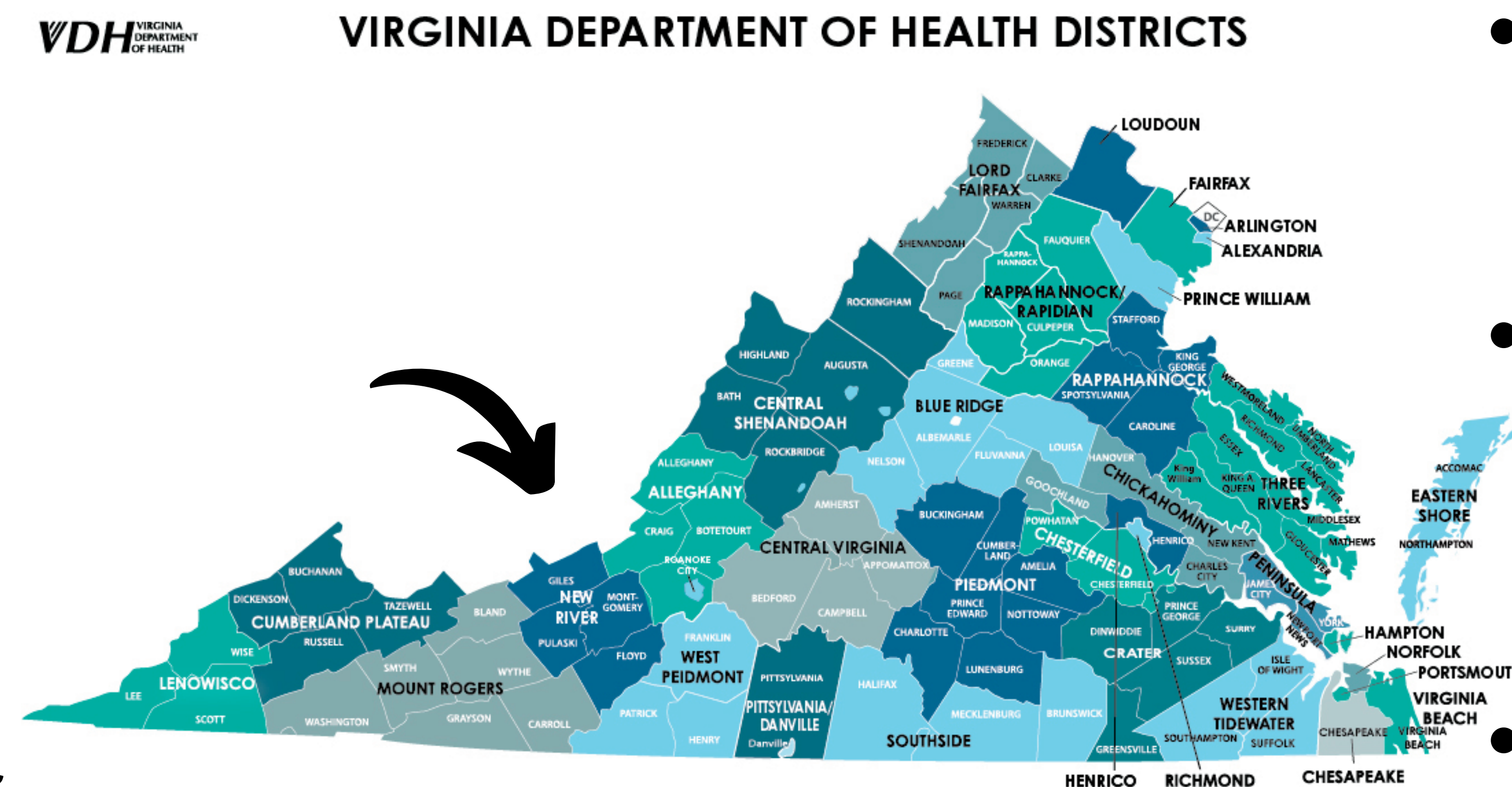
Virginia Tech Biological Sciences and Public Health '25  
isabellai@vt.edu



## Overview

Stationed with the Environmental Health Team in the New River Health District, the purpose of the Summer Internship is to expose the intern to the many different aspects of environmental health.

This includes well and septic, rabies virus management, restaurant inspection, and emerging environmental concerns, especially PFAS.



Located in Southwest Virginia, the New River Health District is comprised of four counties, Floyd, Giles, Pulaski, and Montgomery County. The district has five offices which serve the community.

- ## Experiences
- Worked with community members for rabies virus management
  - Educated community members on PFAS and developed educational materials
  - Trained in water sampling techniques
  - Participated in inspections of restaurants, camps, and well and septic systems
  - Participated in a large-scale sheltering exercise

## Takeaways

- Communicating effectively is key to working with community members
- Community leadership is necessary for effective public health strategies
- Approaching urgent environmental health concerns through a scientific lens is a necessary strategy

### PFAS Quick Facts

**What are PFAS?**  
PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that were created for a variety of household and industrial uses.

**Where are PFAS commonly found?**  
Fire retardant foams  
Non-stick materials  
Water resistant materials

**PFAS Exposure: Water**  
Consuming contaminated water can be a source of exposure to PFAS.  
PFAS can enter drinking water at sites where they are made, used, disposed of, or spilled.

**Questions? Contact us!**

Health effects from low levels of exposure are not well known. Studies have indicated long-term exposure to PFAS may pose health risks.

- Changes in liver enzymes
- Decreased fertility
- Certain cancers
- Preeclampsia
- Increased cholesterol

Scan to see all of our locations and contact numbers.



PFAS Flyer

Rabies Confinement Pen

Well Inspection

Subdivision Inspection

Thank you to Jeff Stover and Sam Walmsley for coordinating the program, and the Environmental Health Team at the New River Health District, especially Reuel Edson and Gary Coggins.